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### John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1873-11-14

## Letter from John Muir to Sarah [Muir Galloway], 1873 Nov 14.

John Muir

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Yosemite Valley

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Sister Sarah, Have just got down the mtn side from my long trip & find a large pile of letters. One from you with Annas photo. It is very good indeed, she is developing splendidly & you say "Get another Gallaway". What a thicket of underbrush is growing up around you. How truly rich you & David are in all that is worth having. Children love & land, Tell David not to work too hard, one gets into the habit of it - & soon comes to believe that everlasting high pressure labor is absolutely necessary. If we could accomplish ten times as much we would still be apt to work at the top of our bent - driven by the same species of necessity. Be economical & learn to do without things & gain leisure to look up, there is a sermon for you.

I have traveled over a thousand miles in this last excursion. Climbed more mtns than I hoped to climb. Have had a very instructive trip in every way. Reached the highest mtn top in the range, perhaps the highest in North America 14,900 feet.

If I could be near you I could tell you many  
a story of trial & enjoyment connected with this  
our grand ramble. Will sometime,  
am always glad to hear any word from Mrs  
Galloway give her my heartfelt regards  
I am glad to be remembered by her

I am glad Maggie is so well  
It is a very great blessing for so many  
of you to be together greater than you know  
Make the most of each others love, which is  
the only true wealth

I suppose I must go into society  
This winter, I would rather go back in  
some undiscoverable corner beneath the  
rafters of an old garret, with my notes  
& books & listen to the winter rapping &  
blowing on the roof. May start for Oakland  
in a day or two. Will probably live in  
Proffers family  
Heaven bless you & David & all the dear  
little ones. Ever lovingly John Munro